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STEAMERS.
DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY,
LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY AND FOOCOW.
THE Company's Steamship
"NAMOO"

Captain Harris, will be despatched for the above
Ports TO-MORROW, the 19th Instant, at Day-
light.
For Freight or Passage, apply to
ROBERT S. SARGENT & CO.

DOUGLAS LAURIE & Co.,
General Managers,
Hongkong, 18th August, 1894. [886]

SAILING VESSELS

FOR SAN FRANCISCO.
THE 100 A. I. British Ship

"SILBERHORN,"
Gibbs, Master, will load here for the above Port,
and will have quick despatch.
For Freight, apply to
SHEWAN & Co.

Hongkong, 16th June, 1894. [70]

Consignees.

"BEN" LINE OF STEAMERS.
NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

S. S. "BENVENUE,"
FROM LEITH, ANTWERP, LONDON
AND STRAITS.

CONSIGNEES of Cargo are hereby informed that all Goods are being landed at their risk into the Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, at Kowloon, whence and/or from the wharves

Optional Cargo will be forwarded unless notice to the contrary be given before 2 P.M. TO-DAY.

All claims against the Steamer must be presented to the U. S. Consulate on or before the 25th day of the month of August.

All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on the 23rd Instant, at 2.30 P.M.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by
GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.,
 Agents.
 Hongkong, 15th August, 1864. [87]

To be Let.

TO BE LET.
—
THE BANGKOK HOTEL.
—

FINE SITUATION: near the **BANKS**
TELEGRAPH and **POSTAL DEPART-**
MENTS: close to the **RIVER** and **SHIPPING**
OFFICES: Central position.

The whole block of buildings consisting of a HOTEL (partly furnished) with large CONCERT HALL, several substantially BUILT HOUSES, SHOPS and OUT HOUSES, for sale.

Admirably adapted for FIRST-CLASS HOTELS or BUSINESS PREMISES.
Possession may be taken on OCTOBER 1ST.

The PROPERTY may be purchased by
PRIVATE TREATY.
For particulars, apply to
Messrs. GILMAN & GILMAN

TO BE LET

N^O. 5, WILD DELL BUILDINGS
(Furnished or Unfurnished). Five Good
Rooms situated in the best part of the building
Apply to **HUMPHREYS ESTATE AND**

HONGKONG, 9th March, 1894. [32]

DWELLING HOUSES:—
 "HIGHCLERE," at MAGAZINE GAP.
 No. 1, RIPON TERRACE.
 FLOORS in BRISTOL BUILDINGS.

FLOORS in ELOIN STREET, PERI
STREET and STAUNTON STREET.
FLOORS in No. 5, SHELLEY STREET.
No. 8, OLD BAILEY.

OFFICES :—
PRAYA CENTRAL, over Messrs. DOU-
GLAS LAPRAIK & Co.'s
GODOWNS :—
BLUE BUILDINGS.

Apply to
THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT
& AGENCY Co., Ltd.
Hongkong, 2nd July, 1894. (21)

TO LET.
N^{o.} 9, SEYMOUR TERRACE.
OFFICES in Victoria Buildings.

OFFICE in No. 4, Praya Central.
No. 4, OLD BAILEY STREET.
GODOWNS in WANCHAI at the back of
McGREGOR'S BARRACKS.
OFFICES and ROOMS at Connaught House.

DAVID SASSOON, SONS & Co.
Hongkong, 7th August, 1874. [22

HONGKONG TIMBER

OREGON PINE SPARS and LUMBER
Always on Hand.

Houghton, 24th June, 1883. L. MALLORY.
[72]

Intimations.

DAKIN, CRUICKSHANK & COMPANY, LIMITED.

VICTORIA DISPENSARY.

FIRST-CLASS DISPENSING at prices that will bear comparison with first-rate pharmacies at home.

Every care is taken to ensure prompt despatch; all Drugs and Chemicals used are guaranteed to be of the finest quality, and all the Europeans in the firm are qualified by British examination.

PATENT MEDICINES, INVALIDS' REQUISITES, SURGICAL APPLIANCES, &c., &c., at Current Rates.

SPONGES, PERFUMERY, TOILET REQUISITES.

The Dispensary is open from 7 A.M. to 7.30 P.M. on WEEK DAYS and from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. on SUNDAYS, but Medicines may be obtained at any hour, day or night.

Any Complaints should be addressed to the MANAGER.

Hongkong, 17th August, 1894.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

VEGETABLE & FLOWER SEEDS.

SEASON 1894-95.

SEED LISTS, with hints for Gardening, are NOW READY, and Orders are being booked or delivery on arrival of the Seeds. They will be executed in the sequence in which they are received as long as the supply lasts.

EARLY SOWINGS are to hand by Parcel Post

CELERY SEED:—
SOLID WHITE
MANCHESTER RED
SULHAM'S PRIZE PINK
WRIGHT'S GIANT WHITE
WHITE PLUME;
Also,
CINERARIA:—
MARITIMA
JAMES'S PRIDE.

The above can be sown now and next month in boxes under cover, protected from ants.

CLAY'S FERTILIZER.

A high-class Fertilizer for Pot Plants and for use in the Garden generally: it supplies natural nourishment to the soil, and assists the process of assimilation, thereby aiding the Plants to attain to their full size, vigour and beauty.

Sold in Tins containing 10 lbs., each...\$1.75
25 lbs. ...\$4.50
Directions for Use are given on the Label.

RANSOME'S "NEW PARIS"

LAWN MOWERS,
The Best and Cheapest Machines in the Market.
For Sale at Manufacturers' Prices.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LD.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,
ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

Hongkong, 30th July, 1894.

BIRTH.

At a Queen's Road, on the 17th instant, the wife of JOHN JOHNSTON BLAKE, of a son.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 1894.

HONGKONG QUARANTINE.

It is, of course, well known that the commercial interests of this colony have suffered severely owing to the plague, private traders and public companies alike having had to submit to drawbacks and hardships rendered inevitable by the repressive measures which were considered necessary by the authorities to effectually cope with the fatal inroads of our unwelcome visitor. However unpleasant some of these arrangements may have proved, and it cannot be doubted that they have pressed hard on the gradually declining trade of the port, the circumstances were of such a character that even inconveniences, the necessity for which, if not generally admitted, were

loyally accepted and—excepting in one feeble instance in which the willing good-nature of his Excellency the Governor was made a tool of by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman ('Soapy Jim' and 'Tosh') of the Committee of that hybrid institution the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, and nearly caused a wholesale revolution against mistaken and misled officialdom—all but unanimously borne with patience and resignation. The wisdom of allowing the able and hard-working members of the Permanent Committee of the Sanitary Board to have a free and independent hand in fighting the scourge in the colony and of doing everything possible to localise its ravages was always apparent, beyond a few carping spouters whose puny personal interests were regarded as of far more importance than the public weal, and the results speak for themselves. It is true that the disease has not been entirely stamped out, nor in our opinion can that be reasonably expected during the summer months while there is positively no check on the influx of Chinese; but the sting would appear to have been taken out of Hongkong's curse and its effects minimised to an extent justifying the belief that all future cases can be easily kept within narrow limits.

And now the question fairly arises whether the Permanent Committee of the Sanitary Board are not, under all circumstances, in a safe position to recommend the Government to remove to a very considerable extent the very ineffectual and in most respects ridiculous ban on our local commerce which has been in existence for so long. An official proclamation that a port is plague infected, such as that issued and renewed regarding Hongkong by Governor Robinson, is very much the same as the declaration that a certain port or coast-line is in a state of blockade; in each case, to have any value, the quarantine regulations and the blockade must be effective. But, considering that at no time during the existence of the plague in this colony has any effective check been placed on the steamers from Canton pouring their hordes of Chinese coolies and others direct from districts where death is still alleged to stalk rampant, does it not appear an anomaly that the river steamers should be daily compelled to anchor off Stonecutters' Island and waste valuable time to the great inconvenience of passengers and of business for a so-called medical examination which is a ridiculous farce? As an instance we may quote what came under the personal observation of the writer on arriving from Canton in the steamer *Kwong-hoi* one morning last week. The vessel anchored and, after some time, the medical officer came on board; he walked through the Chinese stowage passengers, which may or may not be the usual method of detecting the bubonic plague; he looked in at the door of the second saloon, in which was a crowd of passengers, and said it was all right; and he then went to inspect (?) the steamers *Pawan* and *Pang* without bothering the *Kwong-hoi's* saloon. We are quite willing to admit that this may have been all the examination that is now necessary; we are even desirous to go further and suggest the impossibility of one doctor in search of plague, 'shroffing' some three thousand Chinese within something under half a hour. If this nonsense must be carried out for the sake of formality, let it be done on the wharves of the respective steamers; the gates of the wharves can be closed, the usual crowd of loafers left outside, and the doctor can make his scientific investigations as the 'suspects' or possible victims pass outside; but to detain vessels and passengers in the harbour for hours in the fashion that is done now, and has been done for weeks past, serves no useful purpose and cannot be justified. If a state of quarantine has to be enforced, the public has a right to expect that it be done effectually; this make-believe performance is of no use whatever, and it is costly to the owners of the vessels, exceedingly inconvenient to passengers, and distinctly detrimental to Hongkong's commerce.

TELEGRAMS.

CHINA RAISING THE WIND.

LONDON, August 17th.
The Chinese Government is raising a loan in London and Berlin of £1,500,000 at 5 per cent, two thirds of which is payable in silver.

FRANCE AND BRITAIN.

Lord Dufferin has returned to Paris to negotiate the settlement of various vexing African questions between France and Great Britain.

CHOLERA IN ENGLAND.

A fatal case of cholera has occurred at Battersea, near London.

LATE TELEGRAMS.

LONDON, July 14th.
The arsenal at Devonport has been burnt. The fire was the result of mismanagement.

COMTANTINOPLE, July 14th.
The whole of the shore of the Island of Gall has been seriously damaged by the earthquake; 25 persons were killed at Ada Bazar. Cholera is destroyed.

ROME, July 15th.
Twelve million shares have been subscribed for the formation of a new Italian Credit Mobilier.

ST. PETERSBURG, July 15th.
There have been 60 deaths from cholera during the day.

LONDON, July 16th.
An unknown person was arrested for having attempted to stab with a knife Mr. James M. P. Philpotts, New York, Boston, Philadelphia and New Orleans. All of these are outside the trust.

The damages resulting from the earthquake shock are estimated at 100 millions of francs. The population continues to camp out. The Highness the Khedive is still on board the yacht *Mahroussa*.

THE WAR IN THE NORTH.

(Special to Hongkong Telegraph.)
JAPANESE REINFORCEMENTS.

SEOUL, August 16th.

Large Japanese reinforcements have reached Seoul from Fusan, and strong divisions of troops have been despatched to Asan, Masampo, and Chemulpo.

Ten thousand men who landed at Yuesan (Wonsan), on the East coast, have camped near Ping-an city, about 200 miles, as the crow flies, south of the well known frontier town of Aichu on the Yalu.

THE CHINESE ON THE YALOO.

The report of large Chinese reinforcements having reached Ping-an city appears false, but there can be no doubt that the Chinese are in great force at the Yaloo, and will advance on Ping-an city as soon as the Army Corps which passed Newchwang on Monday reaches an entrenched position about 25 miles to the northward and westward of Aichu.

A DESPERATE ENGAGEMENT IMMINENT.

It is rumoured that the Japanese will give battle to the Chinese at Ping-an city, and that in the course of the next ten days the Japanese will have upwards of 30,000 men, including a regiment of cavalry, under canvas on the northern side of that famous Korean city. In the event of defeat the Japanese army will, of course, fall back on Seoul, which they can soon render practically impregnable.

There is sure to be terrible carnage when the flower of the Japanese Army and China's rough-and-ready northerners, from Kirin and Chihli, meet at Ping-an.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

FOOT-AND-MOUTH disease is reported to be prevalent in Singapore.

THE British gunboat *Firebrand* returned from Stonecutters' Island yesterday.

THE usual inspection on board the hospital ship *Messene* took place this morning.

WE hear that the Hongkong Minstrel Troupe will give a free concert to the soldiers, sailors and police on Monday evening next at the City Hall.

"G SHARP" has his "No. 13" in this morning's *Daily Press*, and as he will probably have another snuff-buster on Monday, we have to respite him until then.

TO-day being the birthday of the Emperor of Austria, the Austrian steamer *Alfred*, which arrived here from Trieste last evening, 'dressed ship' in honour of the occasion.

A PIANO is the latest addition to the billiard-room of the Kowloon Police Station, and a minaret troupe has been formed. The force ought to be able to provide some excellent 'corner men.'

THE Agents (Messrs. Dodwell, Carill & Co.) inform us that the Northern Pacific Steamship Co.'s steamer *Tacoma*, from Hongkong, Shanghai and Japan ports, arrived at Tacoma on the 15th inst.

THE ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd., will be held in the offices of the Company, No. 14, Praya Central, at 3 p.m. on Monday, the 20th inst.

THE Mission steam-launch *Day Spring* will call alongside vessels holding code pennant C, between 9 and 10.30 a.m., on Sunday, to convey men ashore to the 11 o'clock service, returning about 12.30 p.m.

As will be seen by an advertisement in our last issue, tenders for the Revenue Farms of British North Borneo and Labuan will be received by the Secretary to the Governor, at Sandakan, on or before the 30th November.

THE life of wire rope on cable railways or for power transmission of any kind is greatly prolonged by lubrication. Careful experiments show that an unlubricated rope broke at 16,000 pounds over a pulley, while a lubricated rope endured 38,000 pounds over the same pulley.

SNAP SHOTS.

Life is an opportunity not to do wrong.

What is man's record but a long expense account.

A tempest in a teapot has destroyed many a home.

Prospects are good in their places, but you cannot fill dishes with them.

Intolerance is an engine of destruction that will run in any direction.

The wishes of the improvident mortal are his wants.

To be just is to be kind.

The man never stops to inquire whether honesty pays.

No matter how dearly you may love your darling you cannot cut his eyelashes for him.

If you wish to know what a man thinks of you refuse outright to vote for him.

Most people have very little use for the man who tells them a disagreeable truth.

It would take so long to explain some mistakes that it is much wiser just to leave them to die out.

Silence itself is sometimes slanderous.

If you pull some people out of the rut they will run off the track.

The safety of some people lies in the strength of the strings which their opinions have to them.

A GENTLEMAN well versed in the sugar business, seeking to represent one of the *Pittsburg Dispatch* about the position of the sugar trade in view of the threatened legislation against it, said: "I received this morning a letter from one of the greatest Belgian sugar refiners soliciting trade. In it were cited the advantages the Belgians will have over the American producers if the Wilson Bill passes, as they will not only be placed upon an equal footing with the manufacturers in the United States, but will have the advantage of the bounty of three-eighths of a cent which the French and Belgian Governments are giving on all sugar shipped to this country. The refiners state they have already made extensive preparations for the trade of America. It is a deplorable fact that, just when the sugar manufacturers have the foreign refiners by the throat by the law of trade, our Congressmen are about to permit the foreigners to clutch us, to strangle the life out of us, by legislation. Sugar has never been cheaper than it is to-day. The cost of production has been brought down to five-eighths of a cent. It cannot be said that there is a monopoly in sugar. There are independent factories at Philadelphia, New York, Boston, Poughkeepsie and New Orleans. All of these are outside the trust. The trust has been unable to get the facts in regard to sugar before the legislature, simply because the party in power is opposed to it. The outlook for the sugar industry in America is very black. With the 10 per cent bounty offered by France and Belgium competition will be impossible. You may look for the sugar production in this country to fall 75 per cent."

THE British cruiser *Leander*, Capt. Count Metaxa, leaves for Nagasaki at daylight to-morrow morning.

OWING to Mr. E. J. Ackroyd, Acting Chief Justice, being slightly indisposed, Mr. A. G. Wise, Acting Police Judge, formally opened the August Sessions at the Supreme Court this morning, and then adjourned business till Monday at 10 o'clock.

INSPECTORS Hanson and Mackie and Sergeant T. Moffat of the local Police Force will be presented with "good conduct and meritorious service" medals by the Captain Superintendent of Police on Friday next. Water Police constable Samuel Pepper, of opium seizure renown, will also be decorated with a bronze medal on Friday in recognition of "the real, energy and ability displayed in the performance of his duty," or words to that effect.

THE discovery of deposits of platinum in the United States, says the St. Louis *Globe-Democrat*, would be as welcome as the finding of a diamond mine. At present the metal costs nearly half as much as gold, having risen greatly in price within the last three years. It is absolutely indispensable for many purposes, being non-corrosive and resisting acids. It is utilized for chemical apparatus, scientific instruments and incandescent lamps. There is some platinum in the beach sands of Oregon, but not enough to pay for mining. Small quantities of it have been discovered recently in the copper mines of Canada, where it occurs in a combination with arsenic. Two-thirds of the world's supply of platinum comes from two Siberian mines in the Ural Mountains. The metal is obtained there as a by-product of gold mining. The mining is done by scooping holes in the ground to a depth of about fifteen feet, and then burrowing, rat fashion, in all directions. Twenty-nine hundred carloads of earth are required to yield five pounds of platinum. The biggest nugget ever found was about the size of a tumbler.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

The fifty-eighth ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders in the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation was held in the City Hall at noon to-day. Mr. C. J. Holliday (Chairman) presided, and there were also present Messrs. H. Hopkiss, J. S. Moore, R. M. Gray, J. Kramer, H. H. Joseph, St. C. Michaelson, A. McCannell and D. R. Sassoon (Directors), T. Jackson (Chief Manager), J. B. Coughtrie, C. P. Chater, A. G. Wood, A. G. Stokes, G. de Champeaux, J. H. Cox, Geo. Potts, J. Kramer, R. Lyall, R. Brown, L. Darby, S. Hancock, A. Coxson, F. Henderson, Douglas Jones, Paul Jordan and others.

The Chief Manager read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman said—Gentlemen, the Directors have much pleasure in laying before you the report just read, feeling, as they do, that it is one that cannot but give satisfaction to the shareholders. The accounts for the half year ending 31st of December last, as you will remember, were adjusted at the exchange of 2s. 3d. to the dollar, and those now presented, owing to the further fall in the price of silver, have had to be taken over at 2s. 12d., and I may remind you that at one time during the past half year telegraphic transfers on London actually touched 11s. 10d., so that you will see that the six months under review again cover a period of considerable fluctuations in the exchange; however, pursuing the policy of never being hastily committed either in silver or gold, the Bank has been able to make steady profits all through, and consequently, whether exchange has risen or fallen, it has been all the same to us. Indeed I may go so far as to say that our experience has been, that there is quite as much if not more money to be made on a low level of exchange as on a high one. On the last meeting here, the Chairman, Mr. H. H. Joseph, drew attention to the considerable withdrawals of sterling deposits at our London Agency. In the report then submitted to you, which embraced as far as that branch was concerned a period ending on 31st October, 1893, they stood at £3,415,992 2s. 6d. You will doubtless have noticed from the statement now before you that on the 30th April (when the London accounts were made up) covering a full period of six months, they are returned at £2,949,938 16s. 5d., showing a further decrease of £466,053 6s. and we have heard by letter that considerable withdrawals have since been going on. Against this falling off in sterling deposits, however, we have to record a material increase in our silver deposits during the half year just concluded, of as much as \$4,897,300.84, which, as you will see, more than compensates for the amount withdrawn in sterling. It is only necessary to add that we are continuing very comfortably at all our branches and that we have ample funds for all the legitimate business we may be called upon, or care, to undertake. You will in all probability have not failed also to observe from the items cash, bullion on hand and in transit, and bills receivable, that the Bank is in an unusually strong position. Indeed, I question if its financial standing has really ever been so strong as it is at the present time, considering the way Eastern business generally has been seriously upset by the great depreciation of silver. I think you will agree with me that this is a highly satisfactory statement to be able to make. With reference to our securities, in the case of the special London reserve with the Bank of England, we may mention that, seeing the great uncertainty in the outlook as regards Indian affairs generally, we thought it advisable to sell the £2,000,000 we held of the Indian Sterling 3 per cent. Loan, and replace the amount by the purchase of two-and-three-quarters per cent. Consols. Gift-edged stocks of all kinds, as probably most of you are aware, have recently risen very materially in value, caused by the extremely low rate ruling for money in the London market, and our sterling securities show a very considerable profit on the cost at which they stand in our books. Concerning our dividend, although our earnings might perhaps warrant a larger distribution than we have now decided upon, and we know many of our shareholders strongly wish this, and we heartily sympathize with them upon this point, still we must recognize that credit is the first consideration, and we are convinced that for the present at any rate the course we are now pursuing is the right one for the true interests of all concerned, so we adhere to £1. 5s. before, and also as on the last occasion we added to the Reserve Fund a further sum of three lacs besides providing \$50,000—the cost of reclaiming the free stretch of land between our bank buildings and the harbour here. As to the general position of commercial affairs there is little calling for any special comment at the moment, now that we have actually been working for a considerable time with a low level of exchange we can see plainly, as we have anticipated and have not hesitated to predict would be the case, that its effect is to stimulate export from all silver-using countries and to depress imports from the gold-using ones, the balance of trade will be adjusted by an increased import of silver. Another thing worthy of consideration is the large export of gold in Europe since the heavy fall in the price of

silver, and it is a question whether the home authorities appreciate and realize fully the effect of this flow of the yellow metal from east to west; it unquestionably accounts in some measure for the large gold balances now in the Bank of England and the principal Continental banks, and probably in the near future will play an important part in the great gold and silver controversy. Of course, it is only natural that we should all deeply deplore the outbreak of war between the two countries we saw so intimately connected with, namely, China and Japan; it cannot help having a disturbing influence on business of every description, especially at the outset, but on the whole I think the effects upon trade will be less than is generally anticipated. In conclusion, I have to state that the Bank is doing well at all points. Our Inspectors, Mr. Walter, is now going his rounds and has reported most favourably upon all the Branches he has been able to inspect up to the present time. I hope I am not taking too rosy a view of our position when I say we look forward confidently to the old point of prosperity of the Bank being attained again in the very near future. Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be happy to answer any questions shareholders may ask.

The Chairman—As there appear to be no questions to be put I beg to propose that the report and accounts as presented be adopted.

Mr. R. Shewan, in seconding the motion, said it was an old saying that "good wine needs no bush" and there could be no doubt that the report and accounts needed no commendation on his part—they spoke volumes for themselves. The most inveterate grumbler would always find fault and even complain that the sour plates on which his dinner is served at the Club are too hot. It was impossible to please every one, but he felt sure that there would be very few indeed who would find fault with the report. Of course there were those who were never satisfied and who, like Oliver Twist, always wanted more; no dividend would satisfy such people. The fact that year after year, notwithstanding all difficulties, the shareholders were presented with such satisfactory reports was most gratifying and an indication that the bank was gaining in strength. The sympathy obtained and as set forth in the report spoke volumes for the care and forethought of the management. The great success of the Bank was a fair example of the survival of the fittest, and the fact that the Corporation had come out of all difficulties successfully was due to their wise and large-hearted chief manager, Mr. Jackson, (loud applause) and also to the Court of Directors who had wisely put the affairs of the Bank in Mr. Jackson's hands and (renewed applause). The shareholders had to thank themselves that they had a manager who made the Bank pay no matter what the fluctuations of exchange were. The speaker thought an equally good report for the next six months might be confidently looked forward to. It afforded him much pleasure to second the Chairman's motion (applause).

On being put to the vote the report and accounts were adopted unanimously.

The Chairman—The Dividend Warrants will be ready on Monday.

Mr. Douglas Jones proposed a vote of thanks to the London Committee, the Hongkong directors, the chief manager and the whole staff of the bank which he submitted, was due to them, one and all, for the able manner in which the business of the bank had unquestionably been conducted (loud applause). If the energies of the directors were devoted to the management of the reserve and the encouragement of local enterprise there was, he thought, no reason why the bank should not soon experience a return of the prosperity so marked upwards of five or six years ago.

Carried by acclamation.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

THE "BLACK PLAGUE" CONCERTS.

Concerts in the Hongkong Theatre Royal have rarely been a success for the past few years, either artistically or financially, and it is therefore all the more to the credit of Mr. W. Baynary, the originator and manager, and the 'helping hands' whose willing aid enabled him to bring to such a satisfactory result the two entertainments given on the evenings of Saturday and Wednesday last for the benefit of a fund being raised as some slight recognition of the services rendered by the soldiers and police who formed the 'Whitehall Brigade' when the deadly Black Plague was at its worst in this colony. Mr. Baynary, who, we understand, has been an active volunteer worker in the Brigade from the beginning, is deserving of special commendation; first, for the kindly and considerate thought that gave him the idea of paying such a gracious compliment to the men who have worked so fearlessly and well; and, secondly, for the time, care and trouble he has so disinterestedly devoted to make the undertaking a noteworthy success. Mr. W. Farmer, who is always well to the front with his valuable professional experiences when a good cause has to be served, and Mr. Morphy, the popular Bandmaster of the Shropshire Light Infantry, who slaved like a Trojan both at rehearsals and the two performances, have more than earned the warm appreciation of the community of Hongkong. Nothing succeeds like success, and our readers will be glad to learn that the two crowded houses on Saturday and Wednesday nights realised about \$500 and \$700 respectively, a result which is more than satisfactory.

And now for the show, a critical notice of which, for reasons we need not enter into here, has unavoidably been held over for several days. The management decided to 'open the ball' with a Charity Minstrel show and end with the exposition of high-class talent in what is professionally termed the 'Variety' line, and probably, although the bigger business out here is as dead as Nonk's Ark, the selection was not an unwise one. The talent available was willing in spirit and varied in musical accomplishments, but might have come to grief in the classically operatic line. When the curtain arose last Saturday night after some little trouble owing to mechanical difficulties which stirred the risible faculties of certain distinguished idlers in the dress circle, the audience had in front a very effective stage picture, comprising seventeen leading specially selected minstrels artistically grouped in a semi-circle, with about a dozen juvenile chorists immediately behind, and the music master of the Shropshire Light Infantry, under Brother Minny, elevated exactly to the positions they were best suited to fill. With the possible exception of the Mastodon Minstrels a dozen years ago, who numbered 35, this grouping of the Hongkong Minstrels was the best thing in its way we have yet seen in this colony. It is just as well to say that before the curtain rose the Soldier's request "Sleep, comrades, sleep" was sung as a mark of respect for Capt. G. C. Versey, S.L.I. and the other Europeans who succumbed to the plague. It was especially remembered and loudly applauded, but why it should have been sung behind the curtains is hardly comprehensible. Such misanthropic nonsense is greatly to be deprecated.

Space will not permit our going through the singer performances, save in such a general way as to say that the show was well executed, and although the singers were

wildcats, conundrums, and whatever else they were supposed to be—first introduced into England by Harry Lauder in William the Conqueror's time—were muddy and dull on the heads of the four 'corner men,' the audience generously overlooked a weakness in the 'Bill of fare' that was inevitable from the beginning. Under Felix was probably the most successful artist in the sentimental line, his rendering of "Ellen's Message" having many good points, whilst on the funny side Mr. G. C. Brady musical treatise on the damaging effects to a forlorn female who was the unhappy possessor of a "Simple Pimple" not only annexed the cake, but nearly led to a riot. Mr. C. T. Robinson was hardly a success in "Love me little, love me long," and the other solos were successful mainly through the effective chorus singing, the boys performing admirably.

In the second part, which the Band of the Regiment opened in fine style with a capital selection from "La Marseillaise," Mr. Cox, R.E., was very funny in Dan Leno's "The Recruiting Sergeant," and his tendency to over-do the business and indulge in burlesque seemed to give great satisfaction. Mr. Bowles was extremely clever in parodying, and exposing to the untidiness, a number of the ordinary titles of the professional jockey, and especially made a great bit with the assistance of the ubiquitous Mr. Brady as the Talking Head; but why did Mr. Bowles think it in good taste to come on the stage with his nether limbs cased in a pair of black tights of the Bumble order, with a space of about six inches between the bottom of the garment and his dress pumps and the upper part next door to indecent? A pair of ordinary trousers which trousers he had on enough to Maskelyne, Anderson, Keller, Haslam, and dozens of other well known jugglers, and we don't think "Professor Vowlesin" improved on the custom followed by these professional gentlemen. Mr. C. T. Robinson had a warm reception for a clever rendering of the character song "Down the Road," and in response to an undeniable recall was equally successful with the coarser class "I don't know where I care." Mrs. A. G. Gordon was most enthusiastically applauded for the sympathetic conception of Cowen's beautiful ballad "The Children's Home," although the song, written for a Mezzo-soprano, is not by any means adapted to this lady's full and rich contralto. Besides the rendering lacked expression, and it was absolutely "guyed" by a series of ridiculous "living pictures," which were greatly out of place in a composition of this character. High-class music is supposed to appeal to the ear and to the soul—and to the eye, and a singer's face in giving life and expression to the sentiments of the composer. The "living pictures" were all right in the barrack-room song "Comrades," which Mr. C. H. Grace sang with more than his usual power, but McGlenon's musical production is quite a different article to "The Children's Home." Mr. Brady was most amusing as "The Jap," and Mr. D. R. Slinman sang Auber's beautiful ballad *Alice where art thou?* better than it has ever been publicly sung in Hongkong since Mony Salamoun's soul-bruising tenor notes made the City Hall ring.

We refrain from dealing with the finale "Fan in Tai-ping-shan," and can only regret that such an exhibition of bad taste was included in the programme. The plague in Hongkong and the work in Tai-ping-shan and elsewhere have not been "fan" by any means, or there would have been no necessity for the concert we have just criticized.

THE PLAGUE BACILLUS IN TAI-PIING-SHAN.

WHEN DOCTORS DIFFER.

On the 23rd ultimo there appeared in this journal an article on the subject of "An Important Discovery in the 'Forbidden City' in which it was set forth in the clearest terms that Professor Yersin of Saigon, Dr. Kwai, of the Netherlands Hospital, had discovered the plague bacillus at least eighteen inches below the surface of the ground floors of certain plague-stricken houses in Tai-ping-shan Street. Assuming our information to be thoroughly reliable, as we had a right to do, we then asserted that "all talk of security from the endemic form of the plague and the complete destruction of the plague-germ in these waste of words under present circumstances, and the adoption of any recommendations based upon such fallacious assumptions and reasoning as characterizes the basis of a good deal of the Permanent Committee's recommendations of the 28th ultimo is bound to lead to further trouble. If not actual disaster, in the near future. True, the Committee state they prefer to destroy the houses in question by fire, but they do not assert, as might well have been done, that the bacillus would be destroyed by fire as the only efficient means of purging the soil of the pestiferous germs with which it is unquestionably impregnated. Since then several meetings of the Sanitary Board have been held, but at none of them were our statements in any way called in question until Thursday, when a letter addressed by Dr. J. S. Cantile to the Board was read in which the writer stated:—

"Dr. Yersin has just called upon me and asked me to make it known that he is not responsible for the statement that the Plague Bacillus has been found once-and-a-half feet down in the soil. He is very much annoyed that his name should be used in connection with a statement which he has never made. He states that three inches is the deepest point at which he has found bacilli, and that very seldom is it met with beyond one-and-a-half inches from the surface."

The veracity of Dr. Yersin's allegations were at once challenged by Dr. Ayres, the Colonial Surgeon, who read a letter from Dr. J. A. Lawson, Acting Superintendent of the Government Civil Hospital, reporting that the bacillus had been found by Dr. Yersin twenty-two inches below the surface. "One discussion followed and the matter was then allowed by the Board to drop. But the mere fact that the Sanitary Board did not consider such an important matter worthy of investigation and discussion is no reason why the *Hongkong Telegraph* should not have something to say on the subject, especially as Dr. Yersin would appear to have adopted anything but cautious tone, and a most irregular method of giving the lie to the Journal that first gave publicity to the statements about which he now appears anxious to repudiate. With all due deference, however, to the learned French scientist and his recent somewhat puzzling contradiction on matters of fact, we are bound to say that he has not only adopted the wrong course to rectify an error, but that he has apparently forgotten that medical officers accompanied him in his bacilli researches in Tai-ping-shan. We have no doubt whatever that Doctors Lawson and Kwai are possessed of just as retentive memories as Dr. Yersin himself, and they have no doubt whatever as to the absolute accuracy of the information supplied to and originally printed in this paper. As a matter of fact it is plain to all eyes that he would especially favour the statement of Dr. Yersin, who have secured a note from Dr. Kwai which confirms every statement made by us

